

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JALIMPRECHT:JL

APPROVED BY EUR - REBARBOUR

EUR/WE - MR. ROWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR ROVIRA MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN AND DEPTOFFS MARCH 24 TO DISCUSS PRIME MINISTER
SUAREZ'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT. ROVIRA LISTED THE FOLLOWING
PURPOSES:

-- TO SHOW CONTINUITY IN US-SPANISH RELATIONS;

-- TO GAIN US SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION, AND
THE ELECTORAL PROCESS;

-- AND TO HELP BUILD SPAIN'S IMAGE IN THE US BY EXPLAINING
THE REFORM PROCESS TO DATE AND OUTLINING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

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ROVIRA EMPHASIZED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS NOT TO
SUPPORT SUAREZ PERSONALLY WITH A VIEW TO THE UPCOMING
ELECTIONS, BUT RATHER TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE KING'S
VISIT LAST YEAR WITH A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
GOVERNMENT.

3. SCENARIO. ROVIRA OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

-- APRIL 27 ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON PRIVATE AIRCRAFT. SUAREZ AND SPANISH UN PERMREP GIVE DINNER FOR WALDHEIM.

-- APRIL 28 LUNCHEON AT US-SPANISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, POSSIBLE MEETING WITH COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. FLY TO WASHINGTON AND OVERNIGHT, (PROBABLY AT BLAIR HOUSE).

-- APRIL 29 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, THEN SECRETARY OF STATE. LUNCH, HOSTED BY US. MEET PRESS. ROVIRA HAS BEEN SPEAKING WITH SENATOR JAVITS ABOUT ARRANGING FRIDAY AFTERNOON MEETING WITH SEVERAL SENATORS FROM SFRC. OVERNIGHT.

-- APRIL 30 DEPART FOR MADRID.

FYI: WE ARE WORKING ON SOCIAL EVENTS BUT ARE NOT YET ABLE TO CONFIRM.

4. DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. ROVIRA SAID HE WILL PROPOSE TO MADRID THE FOLLOWING:

-- REVIEW OF WORKINGS OF US-SPANISH TREATY TO DATE;

-- STATUS OF US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN SPAIN AFTER SPANISH ELECTIONS;

-- EUROCOMMUNISM AND US ATTITUDES TOWARD IT;
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EUROCOMMUNISM AND US ATTITUDES TOWARD IT;

-- US NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO SPAIN;

-- EAST-WEST RELATIONS;

-- CSCE;

-- LATIN AMERICAN MATTERS INCLUDING CUBA AND PANAMA.

5. ROVIRA MENTIONED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THROUGH PRIVATE SOURCES, SPECIFICALLY NOT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THAT THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MOST STRONGLY OPPOSED TO LEGALIZING THE COMMUNISTS IS BEING TRANSFERRED AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BE LEGALIZED. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE US RESPONSE TO THIS WOULD BE. HE WAS TOLD THAT SINCE THE DECISION BELONGS TO SPAIN, IF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT DECIDES THAT THE COMMUNISTS SHOULD BE LEGALIZED, OUR ATTITUDE WILL BE ONE OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.

6. WHEN ROVIRA MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF PRESS SPECULATION IN SPAIN ABOUT THE VISIT, HE WAS TOLD THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF WILD OR SPECULATIVE STORIES ON US OR SPANISH MOTIVES FOR THE VISIT.

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